

Federal Aviation Agency



See 61-22A

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AIRMEN

EFFECTIVE :

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SUBJECT : PILOT FLIGHT TESTS IN SMALL AIRPLANES WITH STABILITY/CONTROL AUGMENTATION

1. **PURPOSE.** This circular provides information to the public concerning flight tests conducted in small (12,500 pounds or less maximum authorized takeoff weight) airplanes equipped with gyroscopic stability/control augmentation systems.
2. **BACKGROUND.**
 - a. At least one small airplane has been certificated with a stability/control augmentation system that operates at all times while the airplane is in flight. Although this system controls only one axis, future stability/control augmentation systems may be developed that will provide full-time two or three axis control for a small airplane.
 - b. It is recognized that the installation of an automatic stability/control augmentation system may increase the general operating safety of the airplane concerned. However, it is obvious that a pilot flight test completed with such a device in operation would not demonstrate the applicant's ability to control an airplane manually during the flight maneuvers and procedures required for a pilot certificate or rating.
3. **PILOT FLIGHT TESTING.** The Federal Aviation Agency is now training test groups of novice pilots in airplanes equipped with stability/control devices now available to the public to determine whether pilots so trained and tested are capable of safely piloting airplanes without such devices. Pending this determination, flight tests in small airplanes equipped with mechanical stability/control devices will be handled as follows:

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- a. If an applicant for a pilot certificate or rating elects to use a small airplane equipped with a stability/control augmentation system for the required flight test, the pilot certificate or rating issued will be limited to that type of airplane with the control system concerned, unless the flight test is conducted with the stability/control augmentation system disconnected and the required flight maneuvers and procedures are performed by manual operation of the flight controls.
- b. A pilot certificate or rating issued with a stability/control limitation will contain a statement similar to the following:

LIMITED TO THE OPERATION OF (type of aircraft) WITH
OPERATIVE (make) MODEL CONTROL AUGMENTATION.

This limitation will be removed at such time as the holder passes the appropriate pilot flight test by manual operation of the flight controls of an airplane.


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